

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAIA 00183 151820Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 /088 W
-----080051 161131Z /14

R 151529Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0148
INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH
AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAIA 0183

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MASS, EWWT
SUBJECT: SOVIET UNION DONATES SHIP TO CAPE VERDE GOVERNMENT, OR
AT LEAST THINKS IT HAS.

1. LOCAL WEEKLY "VOZ DI POVO" OF 10 JUNE CARRIED FRONT PAGE
ARTICLE WITH TWO PHOTOGRAPHS COVERING DONATION BY SOVIET
UNION OF SIXTY-FOOT, FORTY-FIVE TON CAPACITY VESSEL FOR
USE BY FLEDGLING CAPE VERDE NAVY. ARTICLE INCLUDED SPEECH BY
COMMANDER
OF ARMED FORCES IN WHICH HE LAUDED SOVIET
PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT FOR GIFT OF THE VESSEL AND CITED
FRATERNAL TIE LINKING THE PARTIES AND PEOPLE OF CAPE VERDE
AND THE SOVIET UNION. ARTICLE NOTES THAT WHILE VESSEL IS
NOT A WARSHIP IT WOULD BE USED FOR TRAINING PURPOSES AND TO
CARRY MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT. VESSEL WILL BE RENAMED FIFTH
OF JULY IN REFERENCE TO DATE OF CAPE VERDE INDEPENDENCE.

2. DURING A CALL AT THE EMBASSY THE SOVIET CHARGE HAD
A DIFFERENT STORY. HE TOLD ME THAT THE VESSEL HAD BEEN
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INTENDED FOR USE BY THE CAPE VERDEAN MERCHANT MARINE
(ALSO FLEDGLING) AND THAT OVER HIS PORTESTS THE CAPE-
VERDEAN MILITARY HAD TAKEN OVER THE VESSEL. HE ADDED
THAT HE HAD PROTESTED VIGOROUSLY TO THE COMMANDER OF THE
ARMED FORCES WHO REPLIED THAT ONCE IN CAPEVERDEAN HANDS
THE VESSEL WOULD BE USED AS THEY SAW FIT. CHARGE NOW HAS
FOUR (4) MERCHANT MARINE OFFICERS SITTING ON THEIR HANDS

IN MINDELO WAITING FOR TRANSPORTATION BACK TO THE SOVIET
UNION. CHARGE APPARENTLY WAS UPSET LARGELY BECAUSE HE FEELS
"VOZ DI POVE" STORY WILL SERVE TO STIR UP LATENT, AND
STRONG, ANTI-RUSSION SENTIMENTS IN MINDELO.
MCGOWAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIPS
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Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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